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Governor Langer to Local Union 106 in Harrisburg, Illinois, 1934

William Langer

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Listed

March 29, 1934

Local Union No. 106
Harrisburg, Illinois

A T T E N T I O N O F
Mr. Edgar Boles, Pres.
Calvin Johnson, Secy.
John Carrigan, Secy.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of the copy of your letter addressed to President Roosevelt, which I have read with a great deal of interest.

Please accept my thanks for sending it to me.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours

L/S

Governor

Harrisburg, Illinois.

HON. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. ROOSEVELT:—

Please, for the sake of humanity and our Nation, retire enough of the non-consuming, productive, labor-displacing machinery to allow man, the consumer of the products of the farm and factory, to have employment and a purchasing power.

Industry has exploited labor through the medium of the machines until labor is placed in the scrap heap, with no purchasing or consuming power. Unemployed labor has automatically deprived the farmer of a profitable market and consequently he has no purchasing or consuming power. Now with these two great organizations without a purchasing and consuming power, it is only sound economics to realize and see that all other branches of business and professional endeavor will suffer.

If the industries could only see and realize it, even though the machines have created for them much wealth, if they retain this machinery it will make them poor again, for the machines consume nothing and man, with no purchasing and consuming power, cannot buy the products of the machine, and this situation heads industry for inevitable bankruptcy. When industrial heads realize that the consumer plays a very important part in the success or failure of their business, they should be glad to replace the non-consuming machine with man, the consumer of their product.

If stocks, bonds and real estate are ever to return to their par value, if the merchant, banker, lawyer, insurance companies and their agents hope to prosper, if the cities and states hope to get back to normal, if the schools, the churches, lodges, and civic clubs hope to function, then it is absolutely necessary to get labor employed at productive work.

With labor employed and with a purchasing power, consumption will start and this will automatically create a profitable market for the farmer and he will have a purchasing and consuming power. Now with labor with employment and a purchasing and consuming power and the farmer with a profitable market and a consuming power, it is only sound economics to realize that all other branches of endeavor, business and professional, will prosper.

To restrict the production of the vitals of human existence in order to increase the price of farm products, with the consumer left with no increased buying power, is very unwise and is approaching a man-made famine. Unless we increase the purchasing power of the consumer and let the inevitable law of supply and demand operate, the situation cannot improve. To save the farmer and the industries, we must first save the consumer.

Remove the loading machines from the coal mines, complete all public work with man power, take the tractor off the farms, go into the various industries and remove enough labor-displacing machines to make employment for labor. This move, added to the great NRA plan will restore prosperity, and we ask of you, who have the nation's destiny in your hands, to retire the machines in time of peace and end this depression.

Wishing you the most successful administration, we are,

Respectfully yours,

LOUIE J. GASKINS,

Edgar Boler President
Calvin Johnson Secretary
John Carrigan Secretary



Representing 650 men and families of Local Union No. 106